

**2**  
STAGE

# Hear Your Heart

by Paul Showers • illustrated by Holly Keller





Be sure to look for all of these books in the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series:

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### **STAGE 1**

#### **The Human Body:**

How Many Teeth?  
Look at Your Eyes  
My Feet  
My Five Senses  
My Hands  
Sleep Is for Everyone

#### **Plants and Animals:**

Animals in Winter  
Baby Whales Drink Milk  
Big Tracks, Little Tracks  
Ducks Don't Get Wet  
Fireflies in the Night  
From Caterpillar to Butterfly  
From Tadpole to Frog  
How a Seed Grows  
A Nest Full of Eggs  
Our Puppies Are Growing  
A Safe Home for Manatees  
Starfish  
What Color Is Camouflage?  
What Lives in a Shell?  
What's Alive?  
What's It Like to Be a Fish?  
Where Are the Night Animals?

#### **The World Around Us:**

Air Is All Around You  
The Big Dipper  
Is There Life in Outer Space?  
Snow Is Falling  
Sounds All Around  
What Makes a Shadow?

### **STAGE 2**

#### **The Human Body:**

Germs Make Me Sick!  
Hear Your Heart  
The Skeleton Inside You  
Why I Sneeze, Shiver, Hiccup, and Yawn  
Your Skin and Mine

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Ant Cities  
Be a Friend to Trees  
Chirping Crickets  
Corn Is Maize  
How Do Apples Grow?  
How Do Birds Find Their Way?  
Look Out for Turtles!  
Milk From Cow to Carton  
An Octopus Is Amazing  
Snakes Are Hunters  
Sponges Are Skeletons  
Who Eats What?  
Why Do Leaves Change Color?  
Why Frogs Are Wet  
Zipping, Zapping, Zooming Bats

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Dinosaurs Are Different  
Fossils Tell of Long Ago  
My Visit to the Dinosaurs  
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The Sky Is Full of Stars  
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Flash, Crash, Rumble, and Roll  
Tornado Alert  
What Will the Weather Be?

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Archaeologists Dig for Clues  
Earthquakes  
Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean  
How Mountains Are Made  
Let's Go Rock Collecting  
Oil Spill!  
Volcanoes  
You're Aboard Spaceship Earth

#### **The World Around Us:**

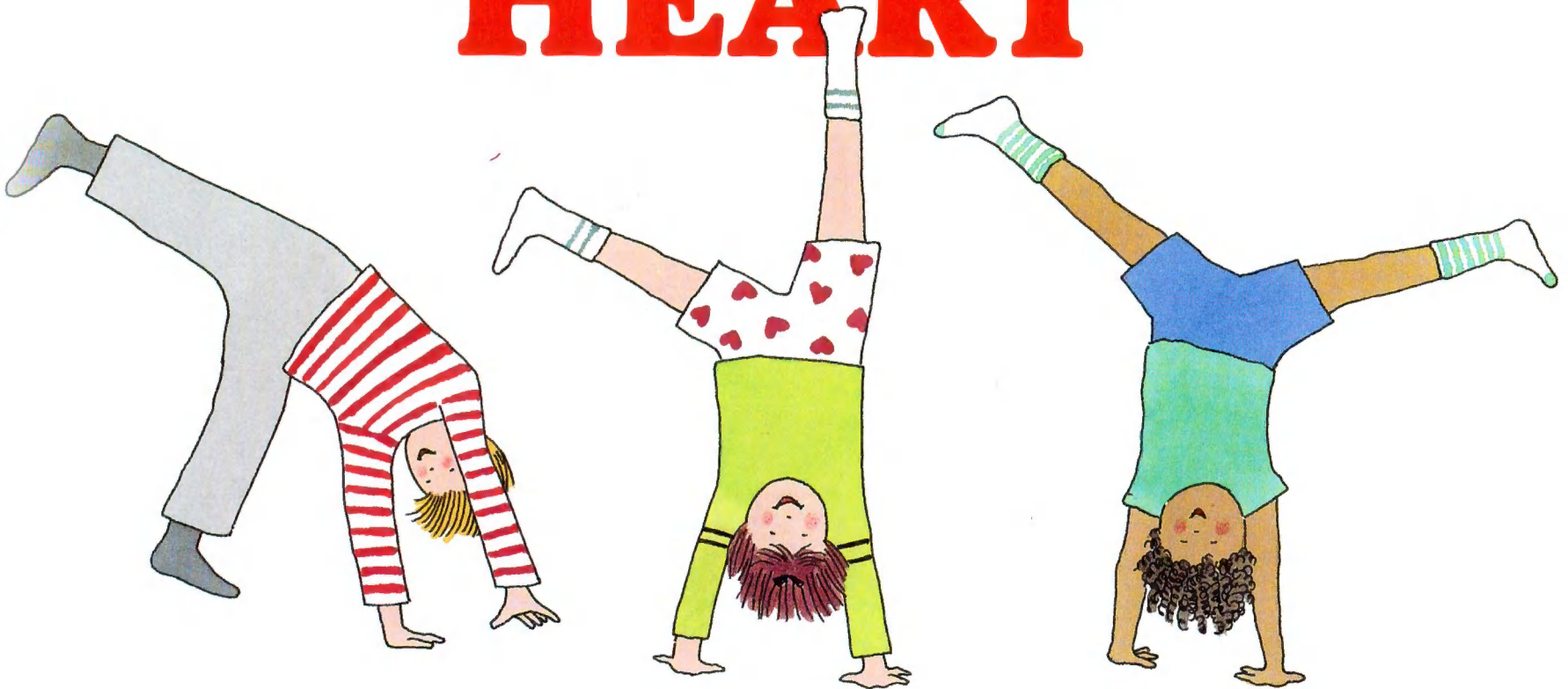
Day Light, Night Light  
Switch On, Switch Off  
What Is the World Made Of?  
What Makes a Magnet?  
Where Does the Garbage Go

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LET'S-READ-AND-FIND-OUT SCIENCE®

2  
STAGE

# Hear Your HEART



by Paul Showers • illustrated by Holly Keller

 HarperCollins Publishers


*For Marie-Laure, with thanks*  
—H.K.

*With special thanks to Richard A. Manzi, M.D., for his time and expert review*

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The *Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science* book series was originated by Dr. Franklyn M. Branley, Astronomer Emeritus and former Chairman of the American Museum–Hayden Planetarium, and was formerly co-edited by him and Dr. Roma Gans, Professor Emeritus of Childhood Education, Teachers College, Columbia University. Text and illustrations for each of the books in the series are checked for accuracy by an expert in the relevant field. For more information about Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science books, write to HarperCollins Children's Books, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019, or visit our web site at [www.letsreadandfindout.com](http://www.letsreadandfindout.com).

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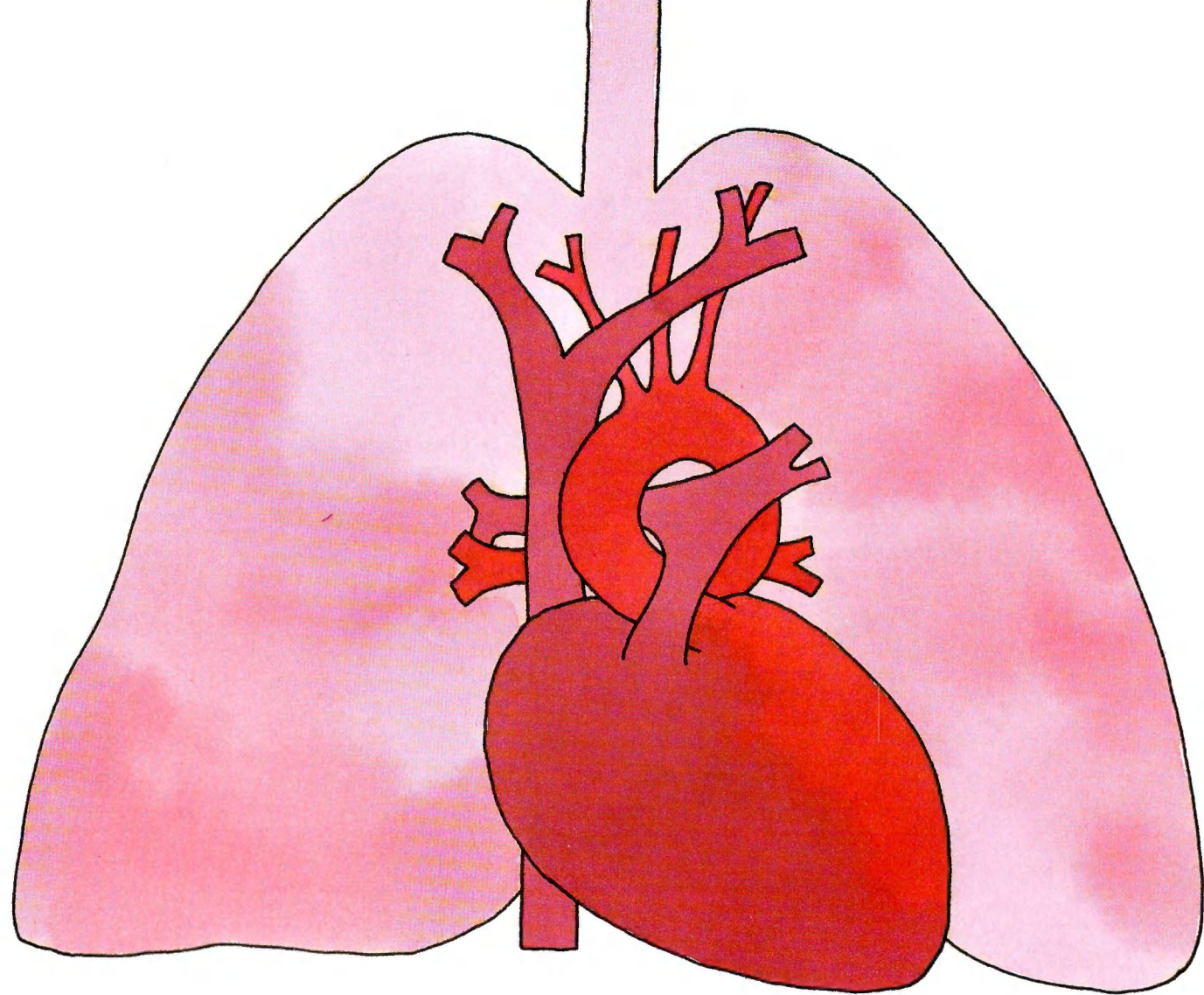
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❖ Revised and Newly Illustrated Edition



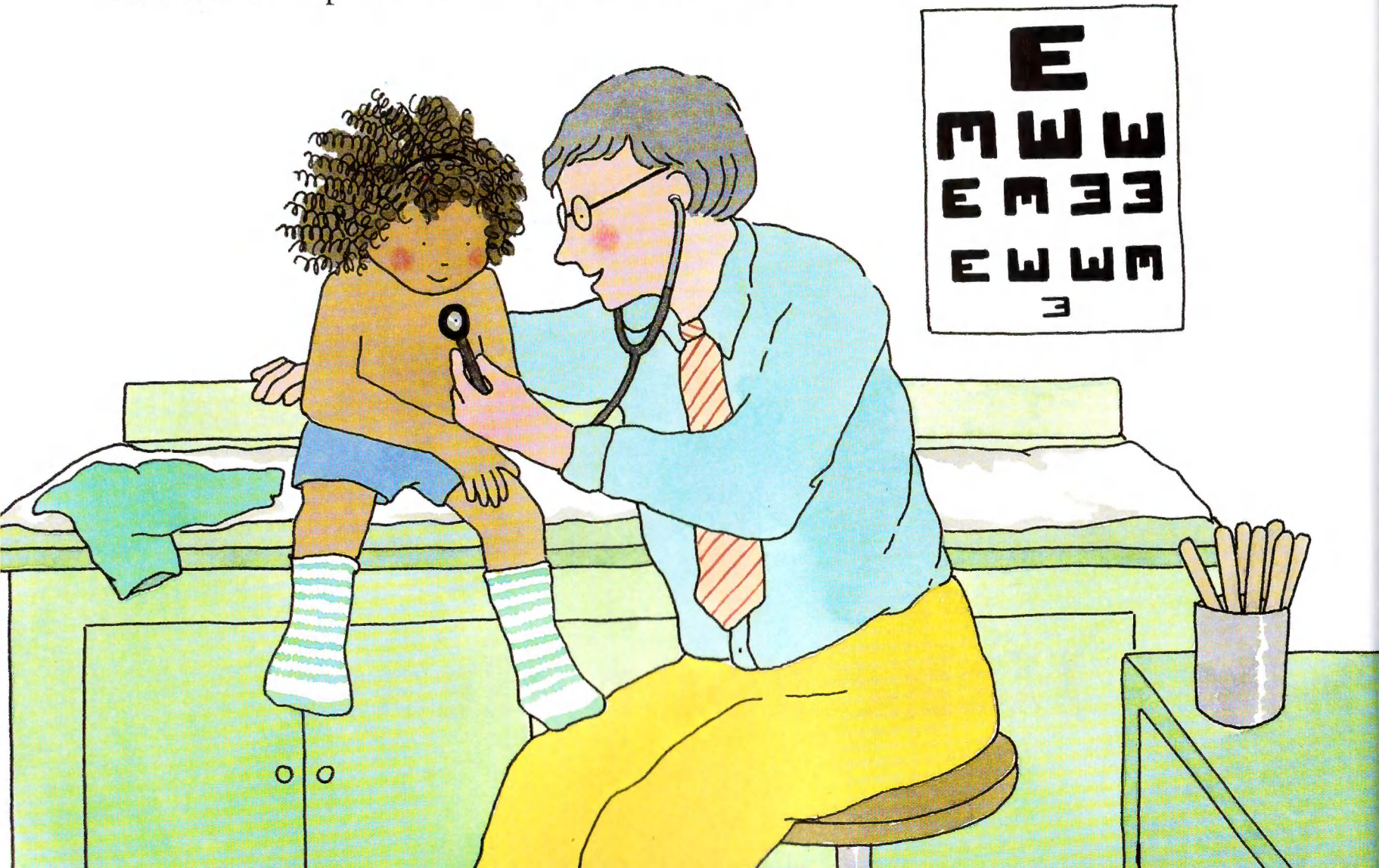


**Hear Your Heart**



When I visit the doctor, he listens to my heart  
with a stethoscope.

The stethoscope is cold. It makes me shiver.





I like my stethoscope much better. It isn't cold.  
My stethoscope is a cardboard tube.  
My sister, Lisa, has one, too.





We save tubes and turn them into stethoscopes.

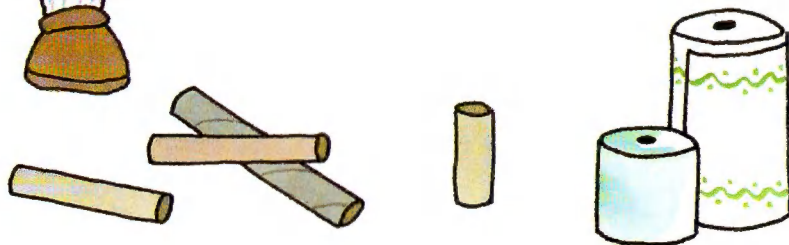
Sometimes they are tubes from old rolls of paper towels.

Sometimes they are tubes from old toilet-paper rolls. Any kind of cardboard tube will do.

This is how you listen to someone's heart:

Ask a friend to find the heartbeat on the left side of her chest.

Put one end of your tube on this spot.  
Now put your ear at the other end.







We listen to our friends' hearts, and they listen to ours.  
Phil's heart beats like this: *pum-PUM pum-PUM*  
*pum-PUM pum-PUM*.  
Molly's heart beats the same way.  
So does mine. So does Lisa's.

Dad's heart is a little slower. It beats like this:  
*ka-DUM ka-DUM ka-DUM ka-DUM.*





Andrew is only eleven months old.

Mom holds him so we can listen to his heart.

Andrew's heart has a very quick beat. It goes:

*tup-pa tup-pa tup-pa tup-pa tup-pa.*





Put your hand on your chest.  
Can you feel your heart?



Your heart is about as big as  
your fist.

It doesn't look like a heart  
on a valentine.

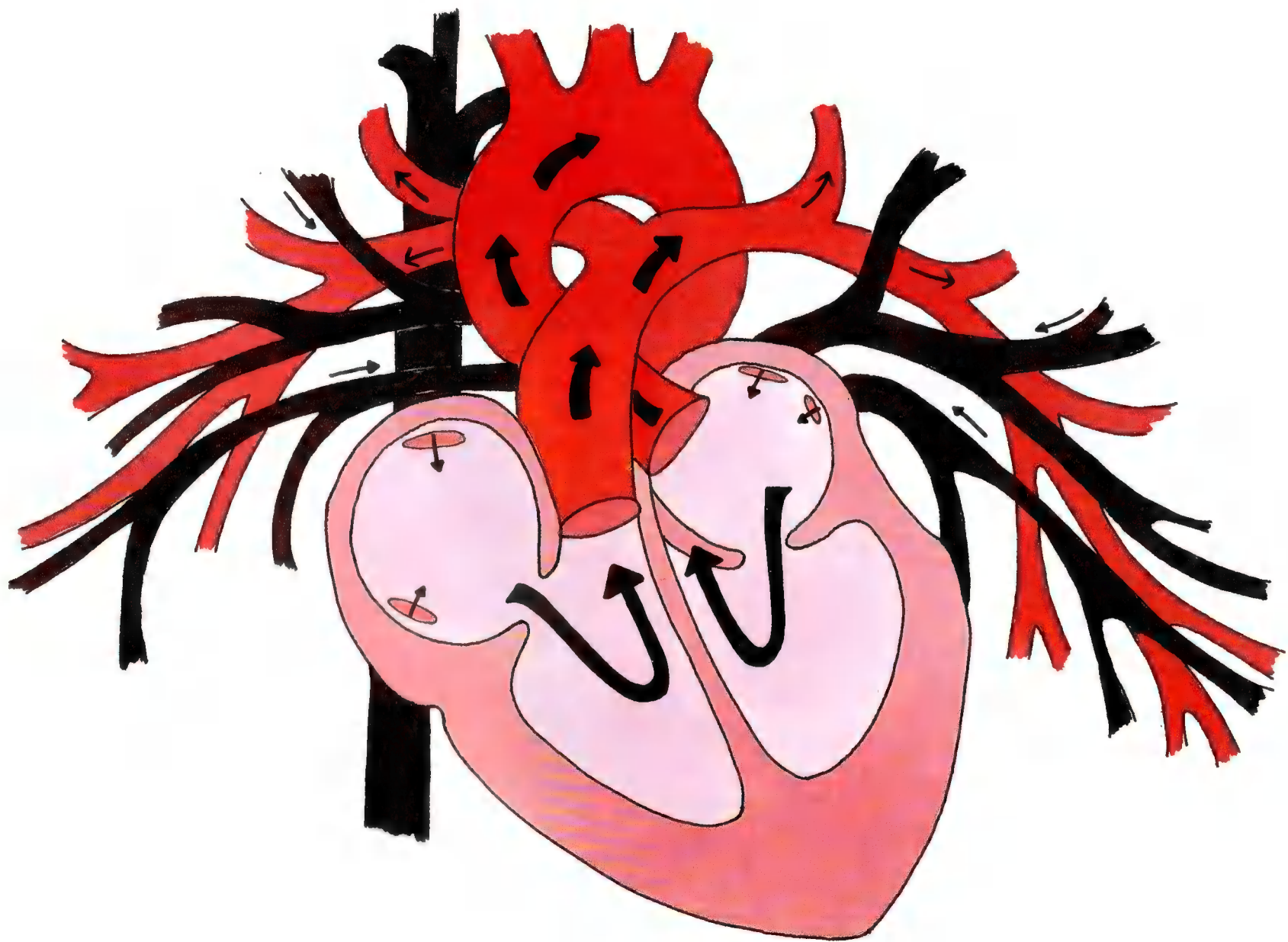
It is shaped more like a pear.  
Your heart has tubes attached  
to it.

When your heart beats, it moves  
blood through your body.



Your heart is full of blood.  
When it beats, it squeezes itself together.  
That's when the heart contracts.  
Blood squirts out into some of the tubes.  
Then your heart stops squeezing and opens up again.  
That's when the heart expands.  
Blood flows into it through the other tubes.  
Blood flows away from your heart in tubes called arteries.  
Blood flows into your heart in tubes called veins.  
In this picture the arteries are colored red.  
The veins are black.





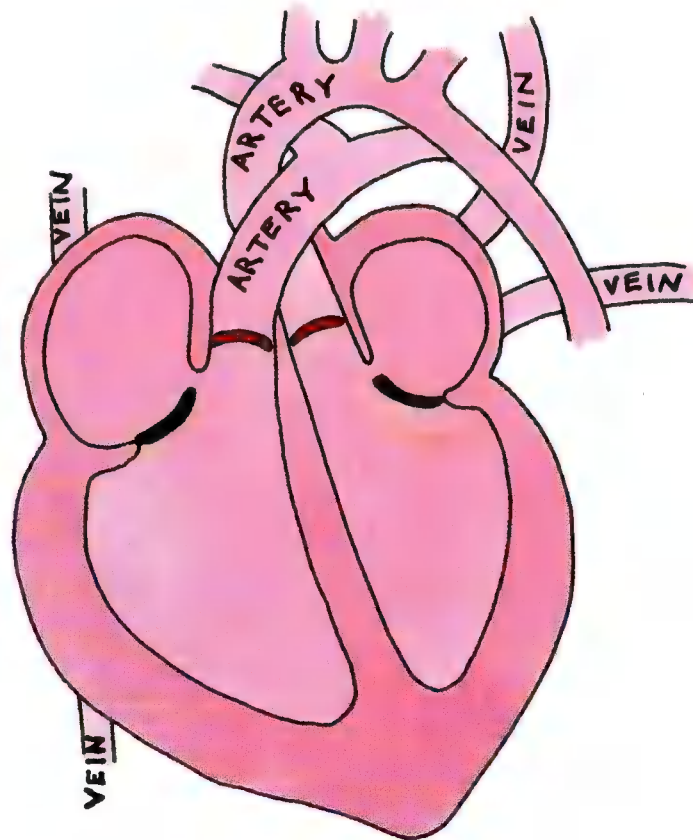


Your heart is a strong muscle.  
Night and day it squeezes  
opens  
squeezes  
opens.  
It is always beating.





A heart is divided into two halves.  
Each half has several veins and one artery attached to it.  
Each half has two little doors in it.  
These doors are called valves.  
In this drawing the valves to the arteries are colored red.  
The valves from the veins are black.





All day long, all night long, these valves open and close, open and close.

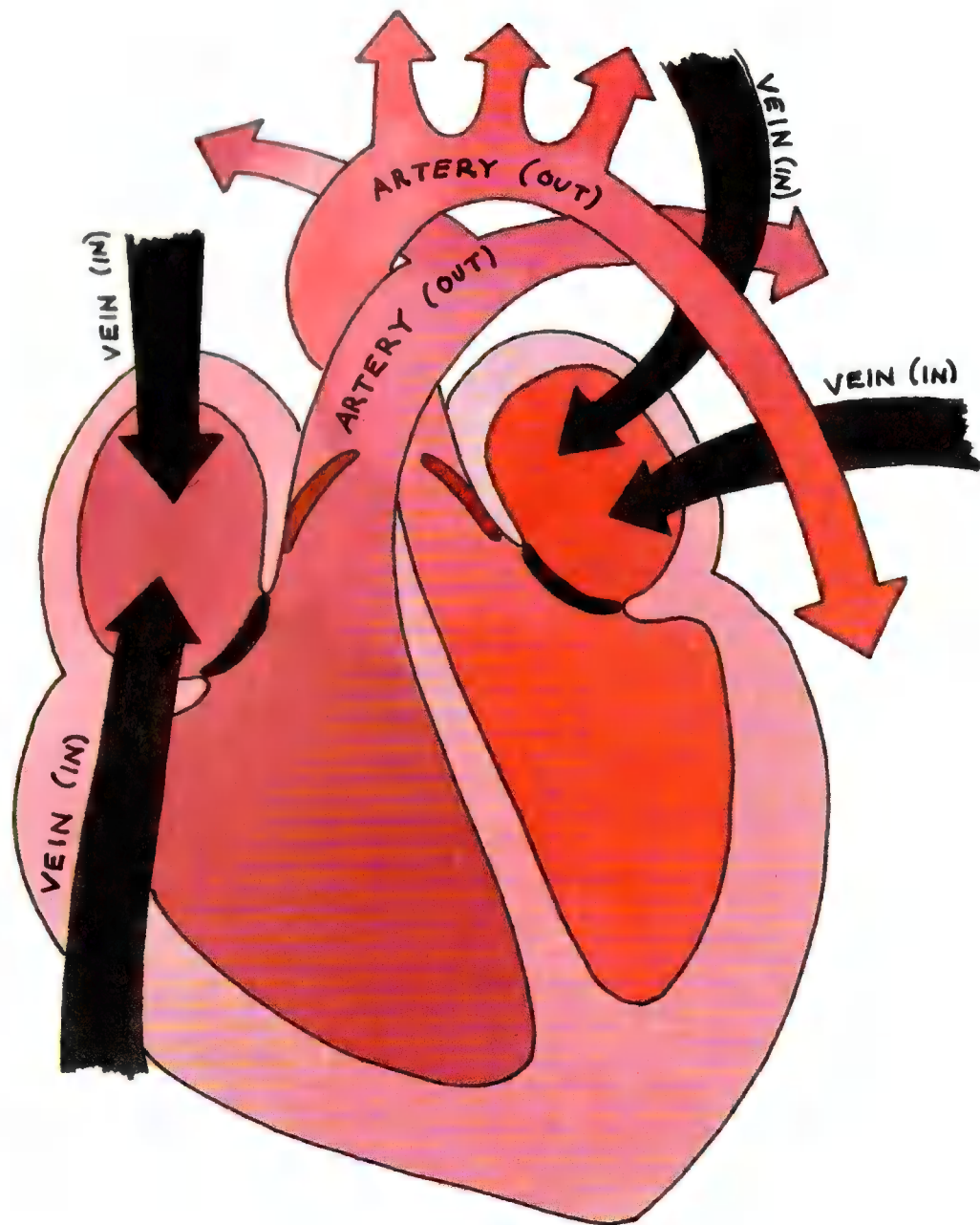
When the black valves open, the red valves close.

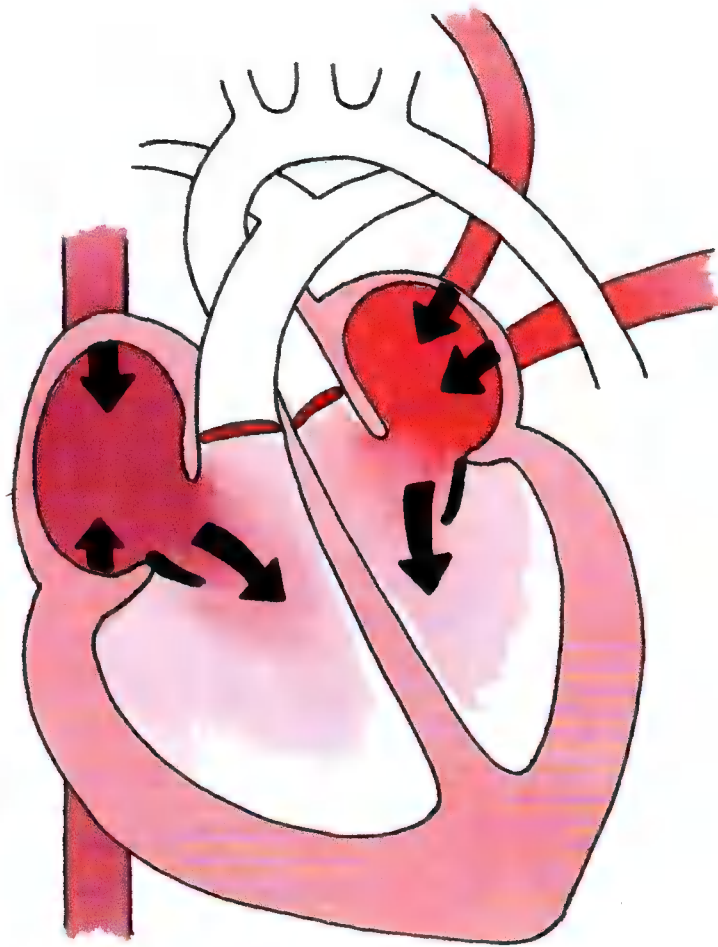
When the red valves open, the black valves close.

The valves keep the blood moving in the right direction—IN from the veins, OUT through the arteries.



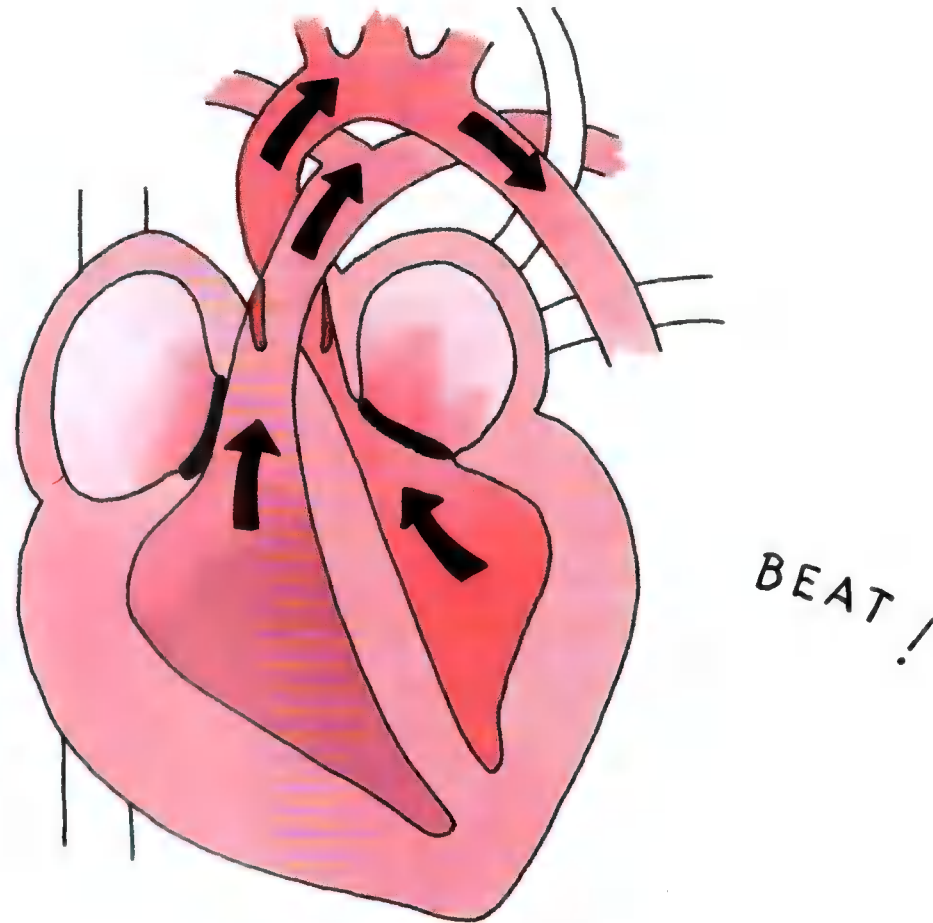






When a heart beats, each half works the same way.  
First, blood comes in from the big veins at the top of the heart.  
The black valves are open. Blood flows into the heart.

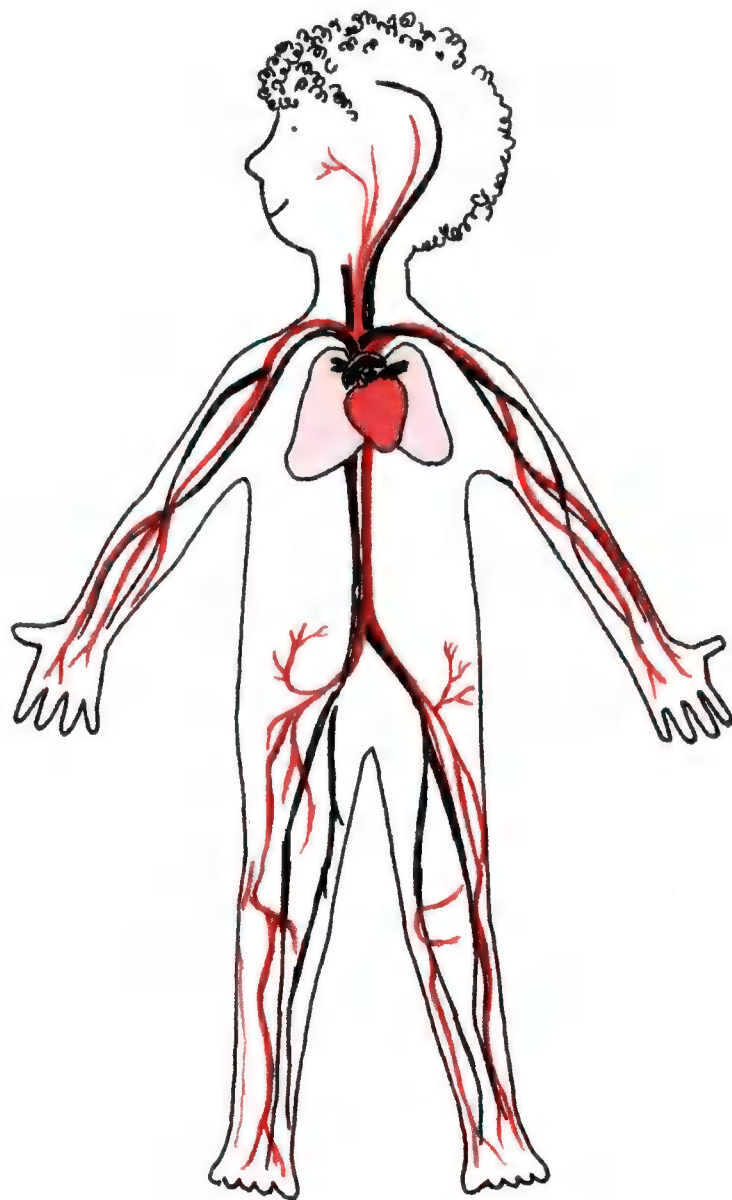
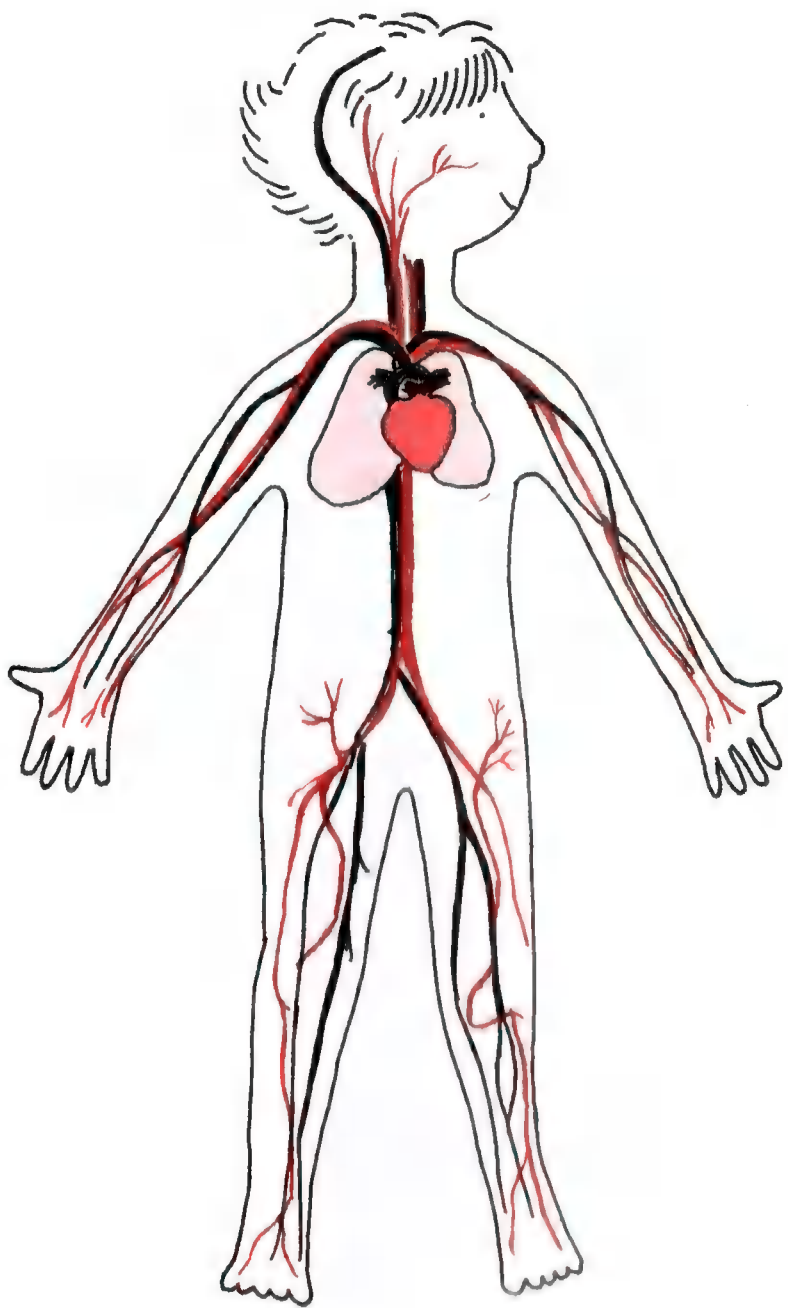


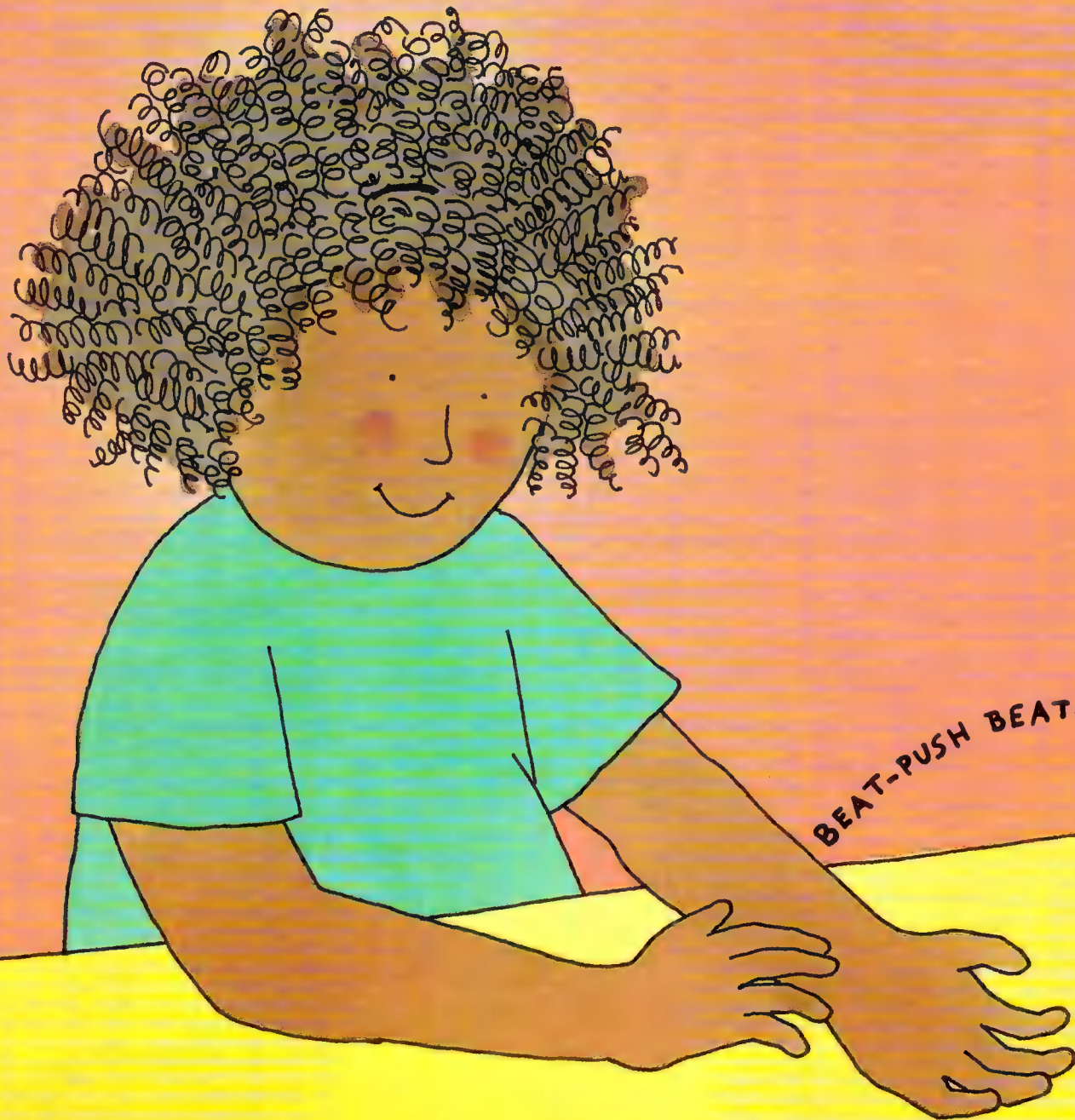


Then the heart contracts and pushes the blood.  
The black valves close. The red valves open.  
Blood cannot flow back into the veins.  
It can only flow out through the arteries.

Big arteries spread out from your heart.  
They go to your arms and legs and head.  
Smaller arteries branch out from the big ones.  
They branch out to the top of your head to the tips of  
your fingers  
to the tips of your toes  
to every part of your body.  
When blood reaches the very smallest arteries, it passes  
into tiny veins.  
The tiny veins run into bigger and bigger veins that carry  
the blood back to the heart.







BEAT-PUSH BEAT-PUSH



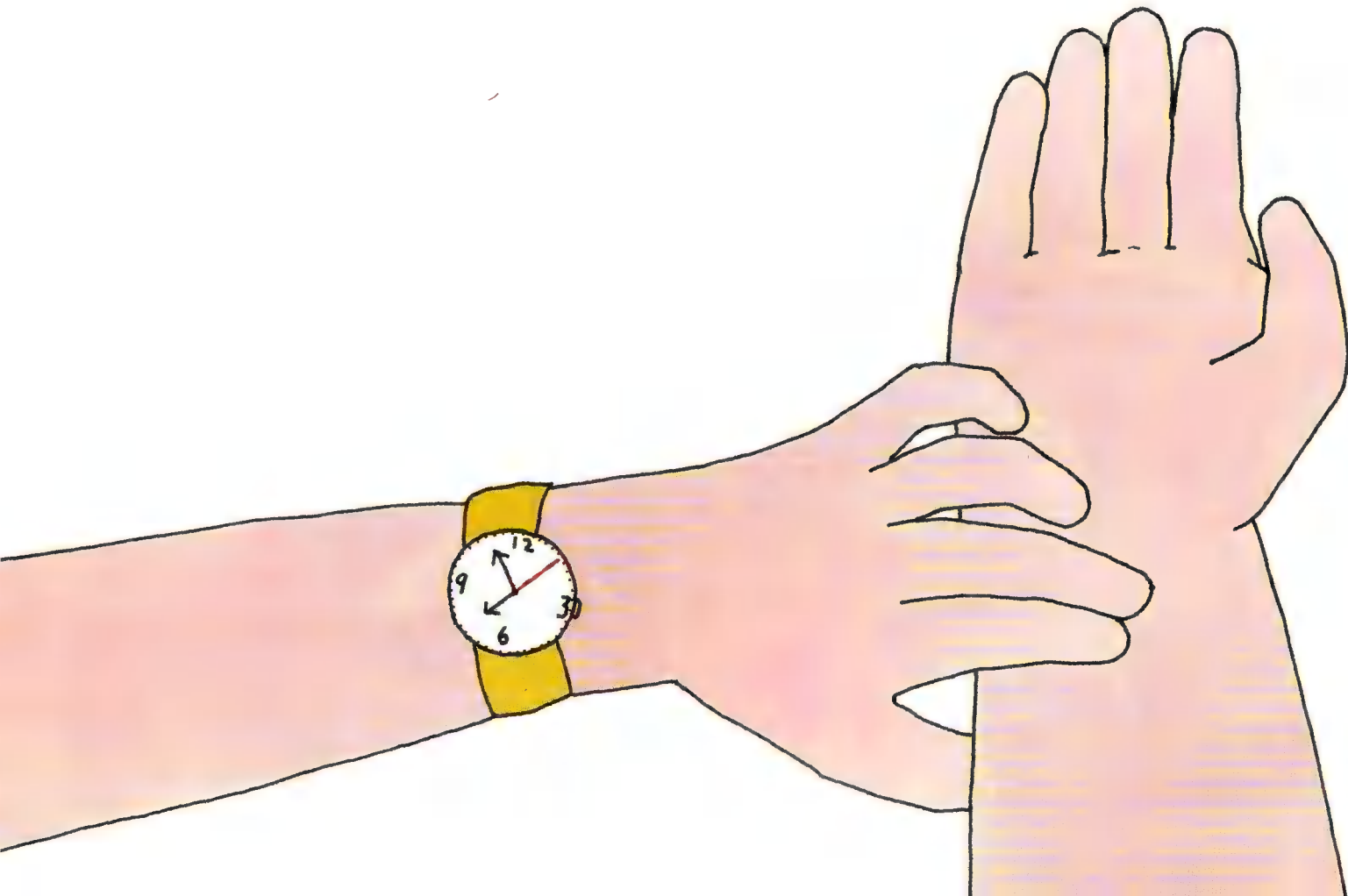
Touch your wrist just below your thumb.  
Press gently with your fingertips.  
Do you feel something push against your fingers? *push push push*.  
You are feeling a small artery in your wrist.  
Your heart is pushing blood through it: *beat—push*  
*beat—push beat—push*.  
This is your pulse.  
You can only feel your pulse in an artery.  
You can see your veins, but you cannot feel a pulse in them.

Your pulse tells you how fast your heart is beating.

How fast is your heart beating right now as you read this book?

Get a watch with a second hand and count your pulse.

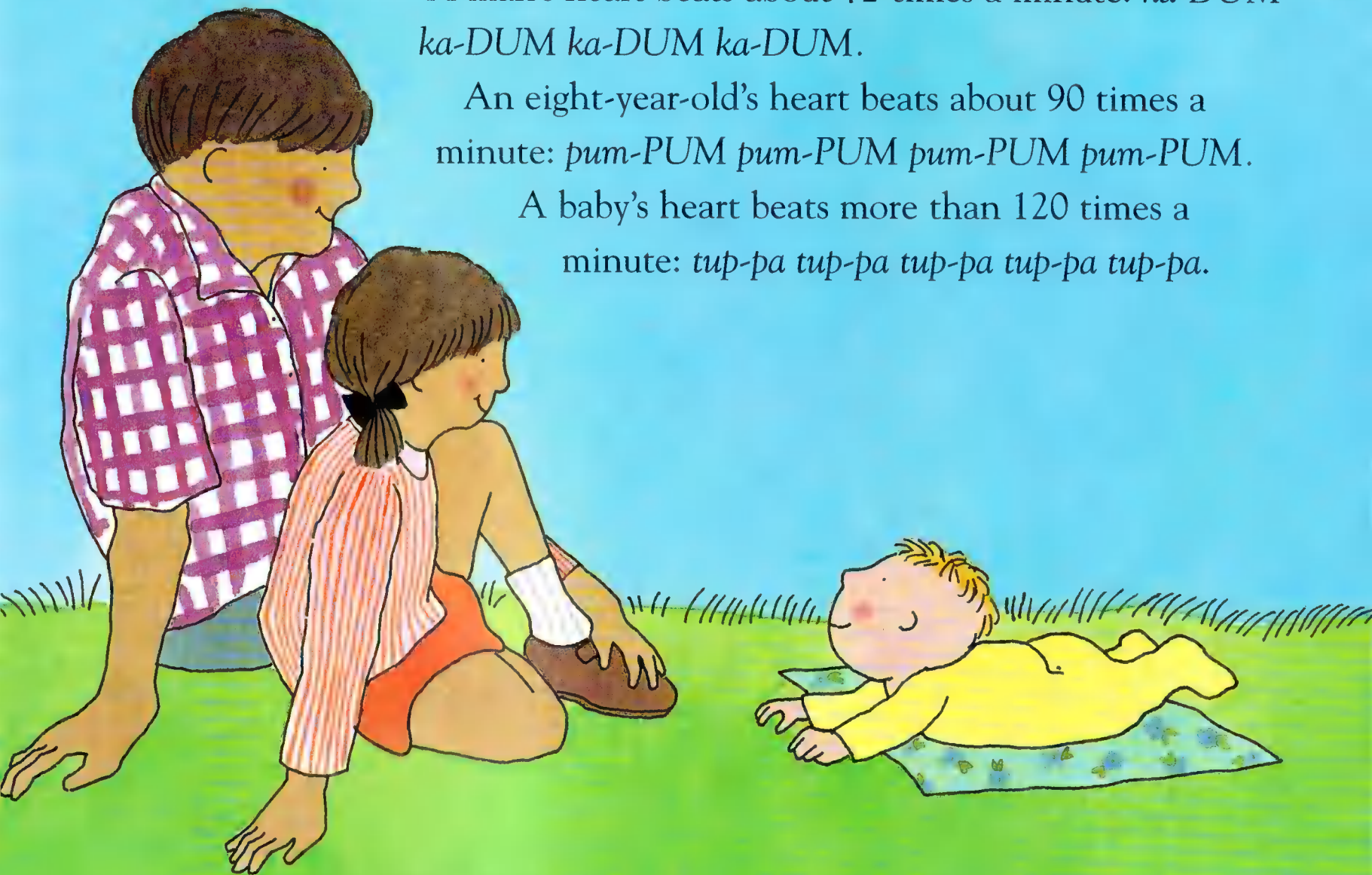
How many times does your heart beat in one minute?



A man's heart beats about 72 times a minute: *ka-DUM ka-DUM ka-DUM ka-DUM*.

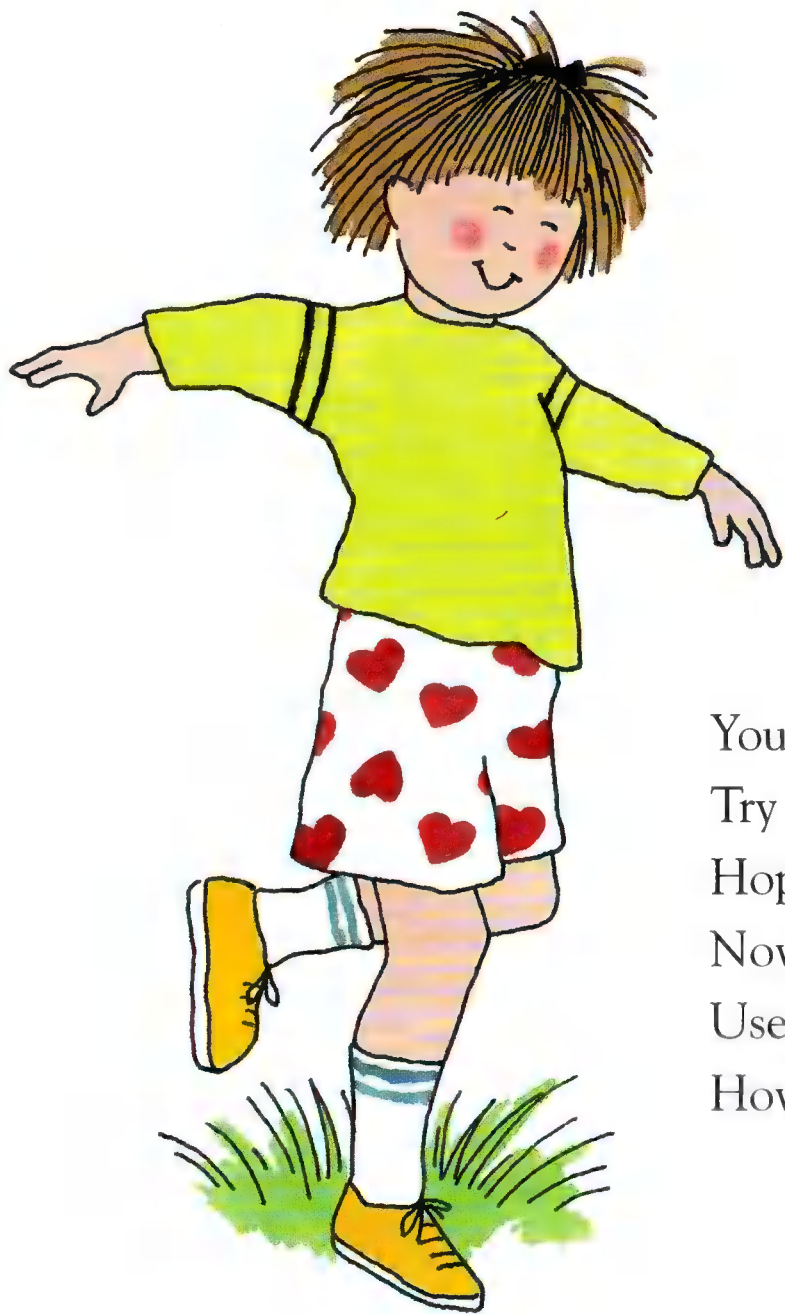
An eight-year-old's heart beats about 90 times a minute: *pum-PUM pum-PUM pum-PUM pum-PUM*.

A baby's heart beats more than 120 times a minute: *tup-pa tup-pa tup-pa tup-pa tup-pa*.



Sometimes it goes a little faster, sometimes a little slower.



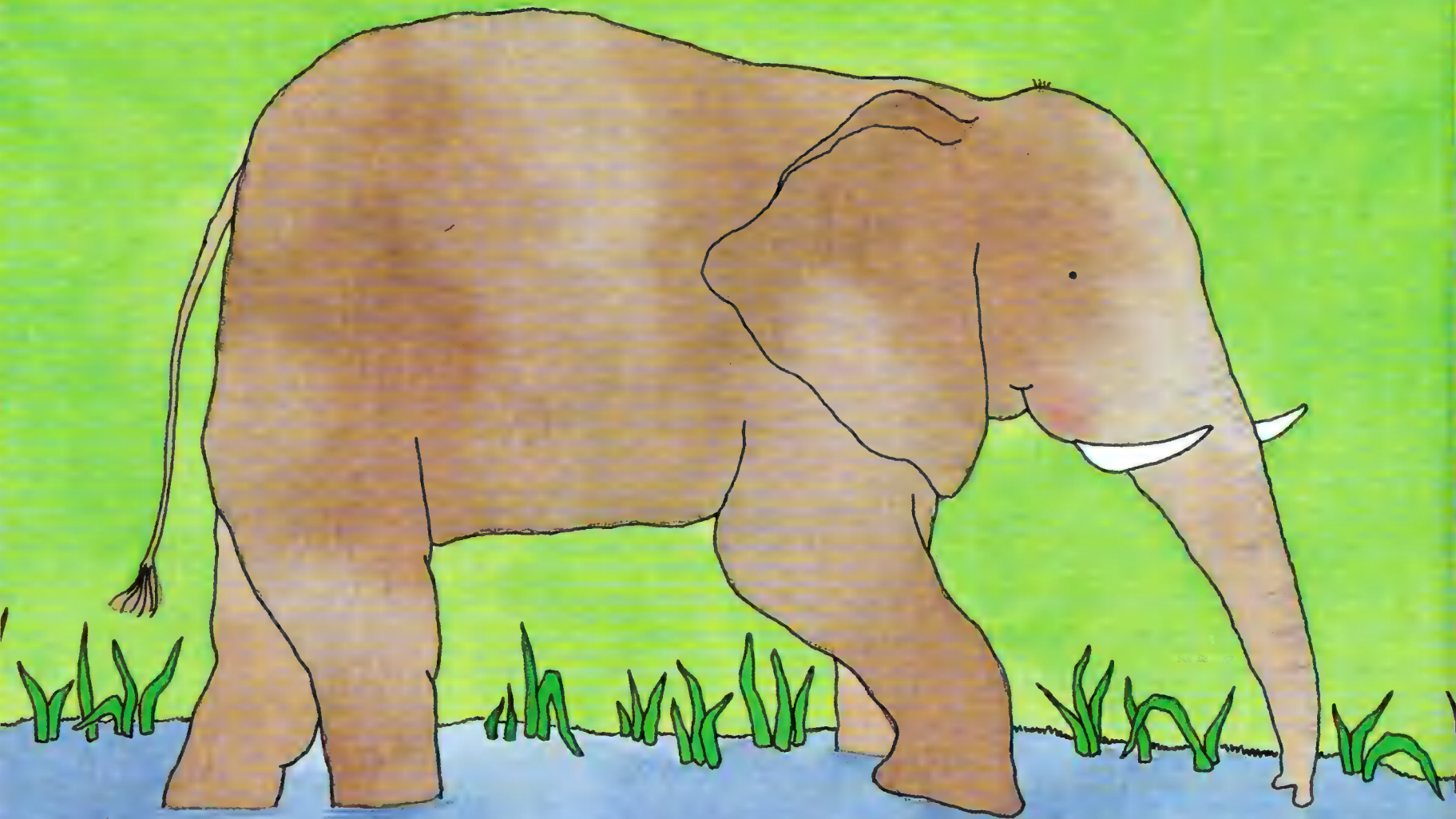


Your heart beats faster when you exercise.  
Try this and see for yourself.  
Hop up and down on one foot twenty times.  
Now feel your pulse.  
Use your watch to count your pulse.  
How fast is your heart beating now?

Your heart beats faster when you run or jump.  
When you sleep, it beats much slower.



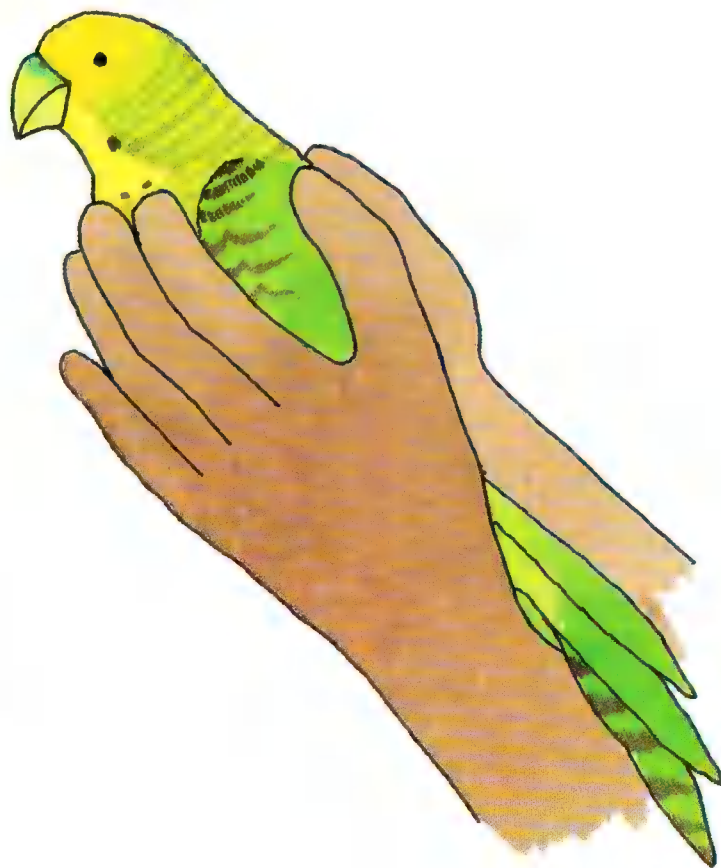
A big animal's heart beats more slowly than a little animal's.  
An elephant's heart beats only 20 to 25 times a minute.







A mouse's heart beats  
more than 500 times a minute.



Lisa has a parakeet named Clarence.  
When we hold him gently, we can feel his  
heart beating: *Pat-pat-pat-pat-pat*.  
It beats so fast, we can't keep count.

Your heart works all the time.

No other part of your body works as hard.

Your hand is strong, but not as strong as your heart.

Try this:

Open your hand. Close it in a fist. Open it. Close it.

How long before your hand gets tired?





Your heart never gets tired.  
When you are awake  
when you are asleep  
your heart keeps moving blood through your body.



## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR HEART

### • How to Measure Your Heart Rate

1. Hold out the middle and index fingers of one hand together.
2. Place them on your other wrist at the base of the thumb until you feel a soft beating. You may have to try a few different spots until you find the right one.
3. Have a friend time you as you count the number of beats for one minute. This is your resting heart rate.

### • How to Exercise Your Heart

You and a friend can try something fun to exercise your heart:

Invent a new dance to your favorite song.

Count how many jumping jacks you can do in one minute.

Play a game of tag.

Go roller-skating.

Play catch.

Do one or a couple of these activities for twenty minutes. When you are finished, count your heart rate again. Your heart rate will be higher (there will be more beats per minute). This is because exercising makes your heart beat faster, helping it stay healthy and strong. It is important to exercise a few times each week for at least twenty minutes. Not only will it keep your heart strong, it will keep your body strong as well.

- **How to Make a Stethoscope**

You don't have to be a doctor to hear someone's heartbeat. You can make your own stethoscope at home.

You will need:

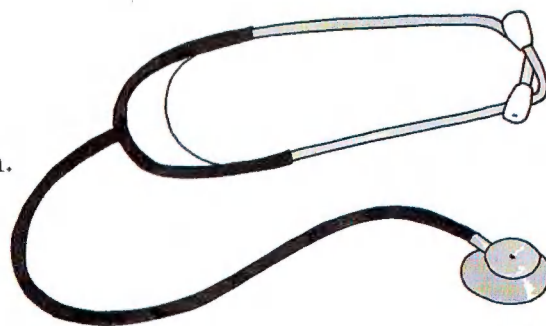
- 1 cardboard tube from an empty paper-towel roll
- 1 friend

1. Your friend can find his or her heart by placing one hand flat on the left side of his or her chest and feeling for the beat.
2. Place one end of the tube on the spot where your friend felt his or her heartbeat.
3. Put your ear at the other end of the tube, and you will hear your friend's quiet heartbeat.
4. Let your friend have a turn listening to your heart.

- **Web Site**

Visit this web site to find out more about your heart and how you can keep it healthy:

<http://www.americanheart.org/Health/Lifestyle/Youth>.



A journalist and an author of books for young readers, **Paul Showers** worked for many years on the staff of *The New York Times*. He is the author of THE LISTENING WALK, and his books in the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science series include SLEEP IS FOR EVERYONE, WHAT HAPPENS TO A HAMBURGER, and YOUR SKIN AND MINE.

**Holly Keller** is the author-illustrator of the Geraldine books and the Horace series. Among the Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science books she has illustrated are SOUNDS ALL AROUND and FROM TADPOLE TO FROG, both by Wendy Pfeffer, and SNOW IS FALLING by Franklyn M. Branley. Holly Keller lives in West Redding, Connecticut.



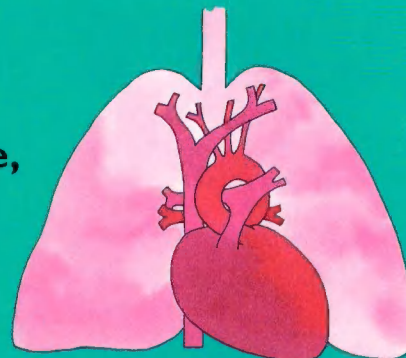


LET'S-READ-AND-FIND-OUT ABOUT

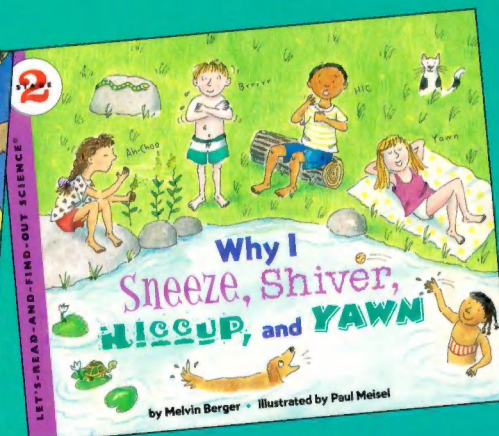
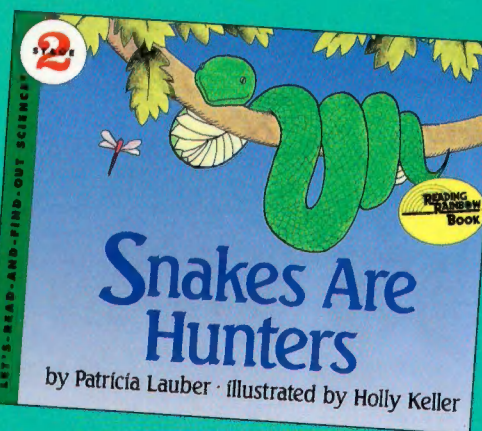
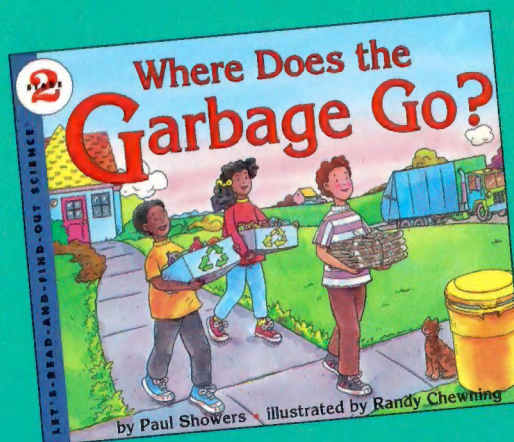
# Your Heart

Night and day, whether you're asleep or awake,  
your heart is always beating.

Read and find out how your heart works  
and how to keep it healthy.



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